WENDELL POST

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50¢ (cheap)

A Man Who Helped BridgeTown's Factions

I got an early impression of Ted Lewis as a Wendell selectman saying in a meeting he wouldn't support the town's position on Route 2. It was around 1980. In town only two years, I was still operating on the Hartford-suburb model of government where, if the voters spoke, the town council jumped. Here was a selectman facing a roomful of passionate townspeople, most of them recent arrivals, and sticking to his right of dissent even after Town meeting had spoken. When presssed, he said grudgingly, "I'll say the town meeting opposed it but I favor it."

Ted wasn't born here either, he arrived from Connecticut in 1932 at age 3, one of six children. He experienced the town as an outsider before he was folded into the ranks of Wendell children. "In this town you're told, 'You're a newcomer'," he acknowledged as we talked in his kitchen. Ted's father, although a school bus driver and master of the Grange and selectman for 15 years, never lost that label.

Ted, who's been selectman for 30 years—and before that a charter member of the fire department, assessor and police officer—obviously picked up his father's habit of contributing and expanded on it greatly.

Ted speaks in the old twangy rural New England way, and rarely uses words of more than two or three syllables. His way of talking can fool the city or college ear. It camouflages his wisdom and the fund of indispensable knowledge he's accumulated. "I could've gone to college," he said. "I thought I knew better!

"I call myself an old redneck. I hate new laws, I'm afraid of changing our way of life here," he explains. "In New England, we fought bylaws. Now I think we wouldn't be in the mess we're in today if we'd had

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THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

The Millers River side of the state-of-the-art triple lined construction and demolition debris landfill on Mormon Hollow Road in Wendell is bulging and cracking and so far response action by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has not stopped the movement. The northwest corner of the landfill has been settling significantly for the past twelve months. The breakdown accelerated this spring creating cracks that allowed high temperature steam to escape from the landfill.

Wendell Board of Health (BOH) member Janee Stone toured the landfill in early May and observed a crack on the landfill side of one of the leachate tanks. She was also alarmed at the steepness of the slope, it appeared much steeper than it had at a previous inspection last fall. She immediately called Mark Haley of the DEP and expressed her concerns over the stability of the north side.

12-ton solid concrete leachate tank covers have shifted and a monitoring well was pushed over. On May 18th the tractor trailer used to haul leachate from the landfill slipped off the perimeter road and rolled down the slope on the north side of the landfill. It was determined that the north side of the perimeter road had narrowed 4-5 feet in a few days.

May 23 DEP personnel met with Dean Bennett and apprised him of the imminent threat to public safety.

On June 1 the DEP issued an Administrative Order and Notice of Non-compliance to the owner/operator of the DB Landfill. The order required an immediate cease and desist for all activities other than those required by the order itself. The required activities were to initiate steps to stabilize the landfill top and side slopes and to repair and/or reconstruct the storm water drainage systems, the liner system and the leachate collection systems at the landfill. The owners had until 5 P.M. June 5th to produce: a signed agreement with a contractor experienced in solid waste landfill construction and closure, a timetable for the work in the order, and written assurance of financial resources to complete the tasks.

June 6, 2000 the DEP issued a Notice of Mobilization (RTN: #1-13460) after an inadequate response from DB Enterprises. The notice stated that the DEP will have its contractor, Maxymillian Technologies, conduct response activities at the landfill. This notice cited provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 21E, Sections 4 and 8 - the Massachusetts Superfund Law.

The DEP has been on site daily and has begun working on the effort to stabilize the north slope and repair the storm water runoff system. Repairs are estimated to take 40 to 60 days. They have been doing site borings in an attempt to understand what is happening to cause the movement. According to the DEP such movement is unusual but not unheard of. The DEP has indicated plans to have a public briefing in July.

The Massachusetts Contingency Plan for 21E sites provides for public involvement in site cleanup. In 310 CMR 40.1400 it states: "Citizens can be involved in planning for preliminary response actions within the year after the site is reported to DEP, by commenting in writing on an upcoming plan. Depending on the situation, a public meeting may be held. To become involved in the planning for an Immediate Response Action, citizens must write to the DEP. The Citizens Advisory Committee on the Landfill (CACL) is also sending

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WENDELL POST

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POST ARTICLE INSTRUCTIONS

Please send submissions to Wendell Post, P.O. Box 113, Wendell, MA 01379

All articles and letters submitted to the Post for publication need to be signed. If you have a computer, you can help by setting them in our style: **3 ¾" wide, 12 point font size, standard font.** Indent three spaces for paragraphs, and do not use an extra space between paragraphs. Please be brief, to share our limited space. If you have questions, call a Post staffer.

Articles: The Post welcomes signed, concise articles about topics of interest to Wendell.

Letters: The Post accepts brief letters. Remember, passion doesn't need to be mean.

Artwork: Local artwork lovingly accepted. Must be in shiny black ink.

Ads: $7.50 per business card!

We now have an e-mail address! Write us or submit articles to wendellpost@yahoo.com

The Wendell Post staff consists of a very small group of interested folks. We meet every other month to figure out what might be important to put in the next paper, usually at a staffers home. We then all go and do all the jobs that make this paper happen. If one of us is busy doing our life – as we all have been at times – it is a noticeable loss for the paper. We would like to invite anyone to help put this treasure together and make sure it continues. Just give any staff member a call. No special skills required and it's FUN!

Annie Diemand

RUGGLES POND

Folks who want to have running water, electric lights and electrified sound in their park experience have many places to enjoy these things.

Wildness is our womb. Perhaps that is why the Moari word for "placenta" and "land" is the same. Without the nurture of nature, we can not long survive. So nature also needs nurturing. Parks can be a bridge between our urbanized lives and our real roots, a place to honor and renew that primary relationship - a kind of sacred space. Historic and rustic Ruggles offers that vital opportunity.

If we turn this woodland pond into an urban park, its intrinsic value is forever lost. Let's not electrify Ruggles!

A. Parker Cleveland

MENTALITY AND MATTER

In the late 1940's and early '50's the Jack Benny Show was very popular with radio audiences. One of the more memorable bits about his stingy character went like this: A crook brandishing a gun said to him, "Mister your money or your life!" There followed several seconds of silence, then again, but lounder, "Mister, your money or your life!: Finally in desperation the crook yelled, Mister, I said *Your money or your life!!!"* Jack Benny finally responded in a mild and measured way, "Well, I'm thinking about it..."

My neighbor says: "The cost of living is high, but it's worth it."

According to another wit: "The problem with socialism is that it forbids capitalist acts between consenting adults." But a problem with capitalism is that it may encourage Benny's Identity Disborder. A wry Russian commented, "Under capitalism, man exploits man; but under socialism, it's the other way round."

Both exploit Earth.

Our thinking, and therefore our behaviors, subconsciously grow out of the stories that underlie our culture. They shape our understanding of our relationships, of our world and of our place in it. We behave accordingly.

The heirs of some native nations speak of the spirit in all things. Their entire ecosystem has a spirit essence and a sacred quality.

To some mainstream religions, God is not in creation but outside it - an observer, a guide and sometimes a visitor. In the words of Richard Nelson, "We have arrogantly despiritualized nature." Accordingly, our respect for creation has suffered. Our respect for each other has suffered and our self-respect has suffered.

We carelessly care less.

Healing the sores in our civilization may require adjustment in how we understand the old stories.

The Bible says that man is to "...have dominion over...every living thing." To me that is a call for trusteeship. I have to ask, "Is it really possible to honor the Creator and dishonor the Creation?"

When we see planet Earth as a divine incubator - a really wonder full womb, perhaps we will honor its flora and fauna as family. Perhaps the impulse to dominate and destroy will die. As we learn to honor and cherish what we have, many of our troubles will also die. And every bite and every breath can be, for us, a kind of communion - the communion of one planet with one life.

A Parker Cleveland

AT RUGGLES POND

Other nations live here.

We can "bulldoze" them the way a big brother might bully a little brother.

But without little brother, we can't be big brother.

Tax Liens Go Out

On March 1, the Wendell Tax Collector sent out 26 lien notices to owners of Wendell real estate. The Tax Collector, Penny Delorey, said that she took the action at the recommendation of the Town Attorney and Town Auditor, and the Selectboard. She said that many tax bills in Town are long overdue. The group selected for the liens of March first were all due since 1992, or at least eight years.

A lien is a document which a tax collector files with the Registry of Deeds, which becomes attached to the deed of the property in question. The lien prevents the property from being sold until the tax is paid to the Town. The lien is also the first part of the process of tax taking, which concludes with the Town taking possession of the property, but Penny emphasized that the tax taking process is very long and involved, and that these liens are only a way of protecting the Town's interest until the tax bills are paid.

Penny said that she wants to work with people to find ways to pay off back taxes. She encouraged any taxpayers to call her or stop by her office to arrange convenient payment plans, including partial payments.

The Town's financial advisors and the Selectboard have asked that liens be put on all properties that are more than 3 years in arrears on tax payments, in accordance with state mandate. Penny said that another batch of liens is scheduled to go out over the summer, covering properties that have taxes due from 1993, 1994 and 1995.

Penny and all the Town financial officers have expressed their sympathy for individuals or families who have difficulties with their tax bills. They are aware that the tax rate in the town is high, and that difficulties and irreularities in the previous Tax Collector's office may have confused taxpayers in some cases. But they also point out the importance of fairness under the law, and that their goal is the fair and equal treatment of all taxpayers.

The certainty of having to pay one's taxes is famous, having been compared to the certainty of death. In the case of taxes though, there are a few unusual exceptions that the law does make for individuals in extreme difficulty. Taxpayers may apply for an "exemption" if they meet certain qualifications of age, infirmity, and ability to pay. Such an application is available from the Town Assessors, and must be filed within 90 days of the first bill of the fiscal year.

--Dan Keller

New Salem
Est. 1996
GENERAL STORE
Full Package Store
Grocery
Lottery
Home Brewing Supplies
410 Daniel Shays Hwy.
New Salem, MA 01355
Tel 978. 544-8177
Rick & Lori Oliver
Owners

Ted Lewis

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'em." By mess he means ongoing growth, and I agree.

"There're three or four houses in a row [on a section of his road, West Street] now. I've got a straw house going in across the road. Real nice guy building it. I'm going to sell seats to watch it go up!"

Ted lives in a neat ranch house on his carefully-tended tree farm--alone since his wife, Marge, died a year ago last March. "She used to go out onto the porch to talk to deer.

"But I'm afraid we need permits now. People don't like to be told what to do, but, well...like newcomers will buy on a back road. Then, the first mud season, they want the road fixed up. 'It's too dusty, plow it quicker, no dogs barking, no chickens crowing'...! I don't think the population would be so big if we'd had bylaws earlier. Of course, the more laws, the more get broken.

"I didn't like the finance committee at first. Now I think it's the best committee in town government. I'm open-minded, but I'm set in my ways."

I asked Ted why he liked the 1980 plan to put Rt. 2 through Wendell State Forest. "We used to have awful fires up there. We fought them over a week sometimes. And we wanted a better east-west road. They showed us how it would keep business in the area. Greenfield Tap & Die, Union Twist Drill were going out. Everything was happening and it was scaring people."

Firmly on the other side of this issue, I'd have been a lot less steamed at him if I'd known him then as well as I do now. I actually chuckle at the idea of ever getting Ted Lewis to change a position on cue. He works with whomever's been elected to the selectboard, and you can see him listen carefully before he's made up his mind, but once done, better go chop some wood, lay some stone walls, write some letters. He's not going to flip flop for anybody, not even the town voters.

"My wife used to say 'Why ain't they shot you yet?'," Ted told me. The problem, he admitted, is the urge to pigeonhole. "I might prejudge you: 'He don't want any new roads'. Usually, when you prejudge people, you've got to eat your words," he said. "I've had to come home and chew a few times."

He wasn't the only prejudger in Wendell at that time—categorizing was epidemic. My impression is some of us are becoming weary, chastened prejudgers. We're a maturing community slower to use the sword of separatism but not quite ready to put it away, either.

To anyone sensitive to ostracism, Wendell in the late Seventies and Eighties was Heaven and Hell with its practice of an "us" and "them" religion. It got perfected around the Rt. 2 question.

Ted didn't mention it, but behind the hard feelings were the two sides' lifestyle differences: funky, barely taxable owner-built houses (with no flush toilet) in neighborhoods with standard mortgaged homes... people's different drug preferences (marijuana vs. beer)...being led by "spirit" and visions of a new paradigm vs. commitment to regular jobs. In my own case, I didn't endear myself to the old-timers by setting up my homestead in the middle of the Bear Mountain deer grounds. Nor did we '70s hippies (a designation we accepted) create middle ground when we voted in town meeting to legalize marijuana growing for one's own use. We newcomers fought against improving Montague Road, resisted repairing a bridge into uninhabited forest, said no to buying a police cruiser, protested helicopter searches. We turned the pews to face each other in the neglected town church, which we appropriated and renamed The Meeting House. We did last-minute write-in campaigns to defeat unfavored candidates for the selectboard and board of health, becoming outraged when the tactic was later used against us. Our Sixties momentum somehow didn't die on schedule. Our energy for public issues and desire to change the world focussed on this town, and we gradually came to dominate town government.

Old-timers had been comfortable with the town as it was. Even though many of us newcomers were pretty independent and self-sufficient, we were the butt of bitter, disparaging comments. A native of a neighboring community raised his voice over his cup of coffee at the Depot post office when my partner, Susan, and I walked in: "The welfare checks must've come in!" I felt like he was speaking for the more-established townspeople.

Prejudice or condescension sometimes showed in the words or actions of a new resident, too. (These incidents still happen, but more rarely). Hardly anybody in the Seventies and Eighties kept both cool and involved, hardly anybody could bridge the divide. One of the unlikeliest candidates to help repair broken Wendell, in my opinion, would have been Ted Lewis.

Ted became one of the agents of healing by virtue of the previously mentioned habit of reflecting and letting go of his anger. He remembers his father saying "Everybody has something to teach you." He says he collected himself at home after every bruising political encounter, and the record shows he then sat his opinionated body down again at the table of town service. Woody Allen noticed that life is 90% showing up, a fact that Ted applied to local leadership: the refusal to quit.

Now nobody tends to run against Ted when his term comes up for renewal. He's become too valuable—a respected elder, a Town father who still happens to have a pretty hot temper, but who also possesses a self-effacing sense of humor that smooths feathers back down again—his own and others'.

Us "newcomers" of twenty or thirty years desire the acceptance of the old-timers here, and that will never fully happen because, however open-minded an individual may be—as I think Ted actually is—a community is set in its ways. We can't just be accepted, we have to be absorbed. After all is said and done, we hippies are lucky to have redneck Ted, because we can hope the community at heart hasn't changed all that much, and his continued presence—a constant—lets us see how much our membership in it has.

Jonathan von Ranson

QUABBIN MEDIATION
CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING
Located in the Orange District Court Building
P.O. Box 544 - Athol, MA - 01331 - 544-6142

Final Closure?

After 11 years, the DB (Diemand Bennett) Demolition Landfill, is reaching an end of its fill-cycle. Nov. 23,'99 was the last date to legally accept demolition debris. After that date, only cover materials: sand, dirt, top soil, should have been accepted to prepare for final closure.

A thick, plastic, final cover, hypolon, is currently layered over part of the debris mountain. DB is awaiting firm spring weather so the desired settlement occurs in order to lay, mold, and glue the final parts of the hypolon cover.

Any trucks transporting to the site should have dirt and sand for shaping and strengthening flat areas which circumvent the mountain; in preparation for building maintenance roads and preparing proper drainage slopes.

At the time of this writing, the DB owners were not available for comment. According to a worker at DB who requested anonymity, the soil used at this time is soil he called "regular." When asked what that meant, he said the state Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) had made regulations more stringent concerning ***permissible-to-spread*** contaminated soil. This "pure dirt" is usually from areas where there has been fuel oil leaks. The soil beyond the heavily contaminated area is also dug as a control, or buffer zone and Wendell DB is receiving much of that "pure dirt." Since it has to go somewhere, DEP has regulated its use and DB is within that regulation.

Concerned residents have complained that trucks have been seen throughout winter months with licenses and door ID which say NY. Trucking brokers have home bases but transport materials from anywhere. The place of origin would only be determined from the legal documents for each load. DEP and DB engineers both certify the fill is within legal limits of contamination.

Because DB received permission to use cover material from an adjacent Diemand property, fill from unfamiliar truckers, continues to unravel the confidence sought with much strain and not often stabilized throughout the entire process. The 2 1/2 week long fire in '95 and the more recent illegal burying of asbestos are but two of the incidents which have eroded credibility.

Ted Lewis, Selectboard, said he "has been spending some time" down there "cause I've heard complaints about the trucks coming in." Some abutters feared they saw more garbage. Ted's question which has not been answered is why the non-local trucks would only come with partial loads? And why from elsewhere when they can get fill from Diemand's without the extra cost or travel expense?

The final phase of capping will take apx. 1 year. A final closure plan application will be submitted for review prior to final construction. But the town is left with concerns about longer term management. Escrow accounts exist for covering procedures and 30 year management, and if all goes well, that money will cover expenses. What is planted must be maintained so nothing will undermine, infiltrate or pierce the hypolon cover, a material the DEP and the industry calls state of the art impenetrable. Nothing should be allowed to grow with deeper roots than what is planted and to establish and maintain this, will take more than 30 years. Also the test wells should continue to remain free from TCE now that DEP calls them clear. If not, or if other unforeseen events prevail, the escrow monies will disappear before they are used for regular maintenance.

Wendell Board of Health passed a regulation in '99, outlawing the use of sewage sludge and its by-products because of research that suggests it contains hazardous waste. Because DB wanted to spread a sewage sludge by-product they call "Amer-Gro, 100% natural and organic," DEP section Chief, division of solid waste, Loretta Oi, said land owners abide by local law and if they don't, the Board of Health has the right to act.

The Board is seeking input about creative ways to establish a growth culture on the site that will remain more self sufficient and resistant to natural processes of invasive tree species.

Nina Keller 3/19/00

Fire	**911**
Police	**911**
Ambulance	**911**
Poison	**1-800-682-9211**
State Police	**249-4341**

WENDELL TOWN DIRECTORY
2000 -2001

A

Administrative Coordinator
Margie McGinnis 544-3395
(Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Ambulance
To call an Ambulance -- 911

Assessors
(2nd and 4th Thursdays 5:00 at Town Office)
Charles Bowes 544-7735
Marion Herrick 544-6373
Mary McBride 544-3925
Jean Dwight 544-3395
Assistant to the Assessors, Thursdays 2-4

B

Bear Mt. Preservation Assoc.
Bob Ellis 1-413-659-3512

C

Cemetery Commission
Daniel Bacigalupo 544-2336
John Bulger Sr.
Richie Wilder 544-7961

Civil Defense
Asa deRoode, Director 544-8695

Community Policing Board
Ed Chase 544-3554
Parker Cleveland 544-2668
Anne Diemand 544-6111
Jonathan von Ranson 544-3758
Anne Zak 544-6801

Conservation Commission
(1st and 3rd Wed at 5:00, Town Hall -- 544-3775)
Don Chapelle
Dennis Harris 544-7563
Charles Smith 544-6933

Constable
David Wilder 544-2773

Council on Aging
[illegible] 544-6850

F

Finance Committee
Daniel Keller 544-2857
Dale Kowacki 544-0205
Peter LaFrance 544-7941
Lee Trousdale, Chair 544-7335

Fire Department
(meets 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm)

To report a fire -- 911

Fire Station 544-3500
Everett Ricketts, Chief 544-3494
Bob Bowers, Deputy Chief 544-2082
Firefighters
Roger Choiniere
Asa deRoode--**EMT**
Jerry Eide
Josh Heinemann
China Holslander
Dan Mercer

Forest Wardens & Dispatchers
Bob Bowers
Anne Diemand
Ted Lewis
Everett Ricketts

G

The Golden Age Club
Elsie Diemand 544-2762
Virginia Wheeler 1-413-659-3743

H

Hazardous Waste Coordinator
Nina Keller 544-2857

Health Agent Epidemiologist
vacancy

Health Agent Inspector
Charles Smith 544-6933

Health, Board of
(2nd & 4th Mon 7:30, Town Office -- 544-3395)
Gloria Kegeles 544-0922
Margaret Paddock
Jane Stone, Chair 544-3594
Katie Nolan, Clerk 544-2306

L

Leverett Co-op 1-413-367-9794

Wendell Free Library 544-3559
(Hours: Tuesday 3-6pm
Wednesday 1-8pm
Saturday 9:30am-2:30pm)

Librarian:
Rosie Heidkamp 544-8457
Library Trustees
Francis Doughty 544-5450
Olga Holmberg, Chair 544-2706
Janet Mankowsky
Judy Putnam 544-7439
Karen Traub 544-7643
Sylvia Wetherby 544-6146
Friends of the Library
Phyllis Lawrence 1-413-367-2175

M

Moderator
Kathy Becker 544-2086

M.O.V.E. 1-413-253-9588
(Men Overcoming Violence)

N

NELCWIT 1-413-772-0806

P

Planning Board
(1st and 3rd Wednesdays 7:30 at Senior Center)
Michael Flanagan 544-6540
Ken Holmberg 544-2706
Marianne Sundell 544-8981
Shirley White, Chair 544-8457

Police
To summon the police -- 911

S

Schools
Lake Grove School 544-6913
Swift River Elementary 544-6926
Superintendent 1-413-659-3337
Christine Lewis, Principal 544-6926
Mahar 544-2542
Eileen Perkins, Superintendent 544-2920
Francis Zak, Principal 544-2542
Fax 544-8383
Franklin County Tech 1-413-863-9561

School Committees
Swift River
(meets 1st Thursdays 7:30pm)
Phil DeLorey 544-2236
Chris Ewell 544-8126
Judith Grupenhoff 544-6106
Neil Gomberg 544-2475
Mahar
(meets 1st Tuesdays 7:30pm)
Jean Forward 544-7502
Franklin County Tech
Lin Diemand 544-3045

Selectboard
(meets every other Wednesday 7 Town Offices)
Katharine Bentley 544-2083
Christine Heard 544-2282
Ted Lewis 544-3329
April Myers, Clerk 544-5261

T

Tax Collector
(Tues 9-12am, Weds 6:30-8:30pm;
Sats 10am to 1pm; and by appt)
Penny Delorey office 544-8617
544-2236

Town Accountant
Nancy Riebschlaeger 544-2741

Town Clerk
Anna Hartjens home 544-6052
store 544-6682

Town Hall 544-3775

Town Hall Custodian
Joy Gorzocoski 544-8345

Town Offices phone 544-3395

Albert Joseph Diemand

October 26, 1908 - May 2, 2000

I remember working on chicken barbecues with Gramp when I was young. I was too young to help with the flipping of the racks so Gramp and I were in charged of keeping them sprayed with the "secret sauce". Often, the sprayers would clog or leak and need to be fixed. Gramp, wanting to make sure that I learned how to fix these on my own, was letting me try and fix one once. I wasn't having any luck, the sprayer was still leaking and not holding pressure, it had been a couple of flips since the chickens had been sprayed and I was very frustrated.

Gramp took the sprayer, showed me what was wrong and quickly fixed it. An older gentleman had been watching this transaction and commented that I should pay close attention to what Gramp had to teach me because he had obviously learned a lot over his many years.

"Not at all." said Gramp. "You try something you think might work", he said looking at me, still the teacher, "If it doesn't work, you try something else and don't waste your time with the things that don't work."

Then looking at both the gentleman and I, he told us in that matter-of-fact Al Diemand way of his - "I'm not any smarter now than I ever was, I'm just not as stupid as I used to be."

Rich Diemand - Grandson

AL DIEMAND:

The "jewel" of Millers Falls...always doing something for someone else. He has always put the "needy" before himself. I will always remember him as a very "giving" man, who has always thought of the family unit as one of the most important things in his life. It was not only a pleasure, but an honor to have known him. I hope he is still looking down on us and can sprinkle a little of his goodness on all of us.

John P. Regish, CPA, CFP

Card of Thanks

The Family of Al Diemand would like to thank all the people of the town of Wendell for their over whelming care and support in the time of his hospitalization and death. We know how lucky we are. Simple words cannot express our gratitude.

My Memories of Grandpa

Even though I could never really imagine life without Grandpa, part of me knew that it was going to happen either way. Sometimes when I'm at the farm, I don't really think about it and I go inside expecting both Gram *and* Gramp. He's always been there and for him to be gone suddenly, it seems too unreal. I have so many memories of him throughout my life, that it just seems so hard to believe at times that he's really gone.

He used to come out of his room every Sunday morning after I was done with eggs, tying his tie while getting ready for church. He would always leave the farmhouse with his red coat and hat on.

Each time I would walk into the farmhouse, I'd be welcomed with a "Hey, Baby!" Actually, most of the Diemand girls were welcomed that way.

I remember his speeding. Well, just how he drove in general!

He would always try to be in charge. Always wanted to be of some use. He'd always would be doing something in the cooking room, helping out some way ..peeling potatoes, peeling eggs, cutting up vegetables, and things like that.

If you called the farm wanting to find someone or find something out, Grandpa would be of no help. You'd end up talking in circles for hours.

Working at the Big E. Once again, he always wanted to be in charge. He loved being a part of the "big operation".

When he was out of surgery and doing well, he had someone bring him down
4-H Camp tickets so he could give them out to people visiting him.

When I first saw him at the hospital, he kept pushing to give Pam and me some money for lunch (money actually, that Gram had sent along for him to gamble in cards with). Yet he wouldn't take 'no' for an answer.

The way he *always* would be playing cards with someone. He'd always be betting, too. He would hum, tapping his fingers on the table, taking all the time in the world.

The walks we had every morning at the hospital when I was sick. And how we had to turn around once because *he* was tired. But he had always pushed me to get out of bed and get my exercise.

The Sophomore Dinner Dance night. Grandpa seemed so surprised at how much older I looked all dolled up.

He always would say 'Grace' before eating at any holiday meal. Made everyone stop piling their plates with food and bow their head.

His afternoon naps and the trips he'd take to get the mail, or rather, the trips he'd have *you* make to get the mail.

When he needed help walking a long distance. You would take his arm, let him lean on you. He'd mumble something about not needing your help, but you'd stay with him anyway.

I've begun to realize that even though he may have passed away, we still have the memories of him that we will always be able to hold onto.

Tessa

Memories

Al Diemand was one of the first people I met when I moved to Wendell in 1986. I have fond memories of cribbage games and conversations at the big table in the farm kitchen, surrounded by the activities of a large family and a working farm. It was a wonderful introduction to my new community, and I can still see his smile as he moved his pegs on the board. I know he still has that twinkle in his eye, watching over Wendell.

Hope

A Diemand In The Rough

Al Diemand hardly knew my name. I knew him peripherally... mostly from hear-say, from the side-lines and through his children... but I've always known, from a distance that he was a "Great Man".

His greatness and accomplishments were celebrated in the Newspapers, you'd feel the greatness in his hand shake, you could hear it in his strait talking kids, and see it overlooking that well managed farm, and in Elsie's generous smile. Their self-made life and family-run farm and their hearty kids and great-grandchildren all attest to his and Elsie's greatness and strength.

I'd seen him working from a distance with rubber boots - getting things done... But it was that afternoon a few years ago, when I tapped shyly on the back door, (not wanting to disturb, but needing a favor) that I happened upon an up-close glimpse of his humor and wit and warmth that make him memorable to me.

He instantly put me at ease, brought out my best, and made my day! You'd think he'd been waiting for years to welcome the one-and-only me into that comfortable kitchen of theirs. Contact with his lively eyes and his welcoming hand, and his playful sense of humor was an unexpected gift and a much needed lift for me that day.

I'll miss knowing that Al Diemand is there, ready to stop whatever he is doing to match wits with me a bit.

He did a lot of living while he was here and he put his life to better use than most... but I must say, the world could have used even more of Al Diemand than it got.

-Molly Kaynor

Mr. Diemand. I always called him Mr. Diemand, out of respect. Although he was a wonderfully warm, casually frank man, with down to earth humor, he was a gentleman, so I never called him Al.

He amazed me that no matter what work he was busy with he looked groomed and neat, with a smile. He cared about other people. He was known for energetic public service projects, but he and his wife, Elsie seemed to do it for love, no other reason.

Kathy Becker

DAD

So - Dad is dead This what I've been saying to myself - it is just such a weird concept - this death thing. In the first few weeks I would say it maybe a hundred times a day – first thing in the morning, last thing at night and countless times during the day. Now I say it slower, trying to let it sink in and become part of who I am.

We all knew that Dad was going to die one day, we all are It is just that he had such a presence, when he was around, we knew it. I was talking with a friend the other night about how strange it is not to see Dad around any more His papa had died several years ago and he said he sees him every time he looks in the mirror, in his children and just the way he approaches daily life. I know I will see Dad in all these ways and more.

Dad was the youngest old man I ever knew Whether he was trying to get someone to donate money, time or materials for whichever cause he was working on or whether he was asking us for something to do on the farm (painting the clapboards with one of us or cutting up the vegetables and turkey for the pot pies) or talking someone into a game of cards and winning a buck or two. He wanted to stay busy, to be a part of something more than himself

Dad had gone to the seminary with the intention of becoming a priest. After a year he quit and later married at 32 years old The farm and his family started, he knew he had found where he belonged Being in a working relationship with him was a learning experience. We had many tough times in years past, both the young and the old trying to hold onto the helm. But I do know that he was very proud and happy to see his passion past on to the next generation.

One of the things I miss most about Dad is his dancing with me – around the kitchen floor – usually no music - save for what was in our heads. He once told me "The man leads He keeps his hand firmly on the small of the back of his partner, keeps his arm stiff and she'll follow him anywhere " I guess it worked – he and Mom were married 59 years.

We all have our memories that we treasure, that make us smile or make us weep. I know Dad learned a lot in this lifetime of his. We all saw the changes over the years. I've had many talks with friends and family since Dad's death and the stories are something I will carry in my heart and pass on.

Yes – our Papa is dead He has left us with a legacy of faithfulness, humor, and ability to work hard, work together, and love I know I was blessed to be born his child and I thank him for teaching me and allowing me to teach him all the lessons we learned together. Rest easy, Dad – we'll keep up the good work

Anne

Al Diemand was a very active member of St. John's Church for many years. He served as a member and chairman of the parish council, and also served as an Eucharistic Minister. In addition, he was always willing to help in any way possible, and through the years was active in many ways.

However, he was best known for the annual chicken barbecue. Al, and the Diemand family, have made the annual event a very popular and successful undertaking Al watched over the "pit crew" like a hawk. I will always remember his desire to assure that the chicken met his lofty standards. Although he will not be with us physically this year, I know he will be watching over us and saying, "more spray, turn them faster, let them brown a little more, watch that charcoal," and "make sure they are done"!

Al, in spite of taking the chicken cooking very seriously, always enjoyed the jokes and kidding that took place at the "pit". We will all miss your smile and your direction, but we will try to live up to your high standards, and we will think of you fondly!

Thanks.
Tom Graves

Christ said, "love one another as I have loved you", a very short and simple request. A request that will guarantee eternity in heaven if put to practice.

My close friend Al Diemand lived this command to the letter. For forty-five years God gave me the blessing of seeing him live his life this way.

I miss him deeply, but I know he is at peace with our Lord. Anyone, who follows the example he gave all of us, through his life, will receive the eternal reward he now enjoys.

Rev. Mr. James F Donelan
Deacon , St. Mary's Orange

During the six years that I have been affiliated with the Greenfield Co-operative Bank, Al and Elsie became very good friends. Al and I would always take time to talk about family, 4-H Camp Howe and what ever else we had on our mind. What impressed me most about Al was his integrity, strong faith in God, love for his family and dedication to 4-H Camp Howe. Al was, and always will be, an inspiration and role model for me in how to live life to the fullest. His smiling face, ehthusiasm for life and fine sense of humor is greatly missed. Larry Beane

Annie's Dad

I read the words she wrote about her dad today
It's only been a few weeks since he passed away
Although I didn't know him somehow I feel I do
The message from his spirit through her words is shining through

He was an honest man
Did the best he could
In any situation he would try to find the good
He was a caring man
Showed it everyday
If his help was ever needed
You were never turned away

Raising all those kids was not an easy chore
I'm sure if you could ask him he'd have had
a couple more
Knowing that his spirit would be passed on
down the line
And from what I see in her he did just fine

He had farmer's hands
And a preachers soul
If the ship was ever sinking he could always
patch the hole
He was a giving man till the very end
He was the kind of person you could always,
always call your friend

The ending of her story it struck home for me
He's just the kind of person that I hope to be
In a world that's always changing
In a life where there's on chance
We all hope to find some one to Dance the Dance

He was an honest man
Did the best he could
In any situation he would always find the good
He was a caring man
Showed it everyday
And from what I see in Anne
Her Dad's spirit will never fade away.

By Doug Johnson

It is hard for me to sit down and write about my father-in-lawand neighbor of the past 20 years, because it is so sad to me to think of him as being gone. Dad Diemand was kind, loving, forgiving, and generous. He is sorely missed.
-Lin Diemand

Country Store
(Monday-Saturday 7:30am-9pm
Sunday 9am-8pm)
544-8646

Cultural Council

Robin Driscoll	544-6393
Linda Hickman	544-8604
Phyllis Lawrence, Chair	1-413-367-2175
Gloria Kegeles	544-0922
Annemarie Meltzer	544-7943

D

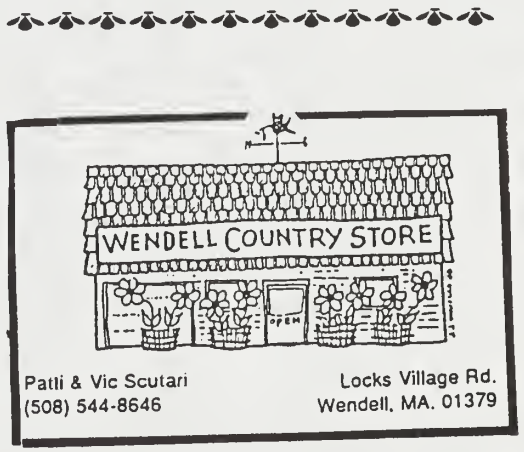
Dog Officer
Maggie Houghton 544-7773

E

Enchanted Forest
Rosemary Sheola 544-0976

Arsenault
Towing & Recovery Service
107 Wendell Depot Road
Wendell Depot, MA 01380 978-544-9955

指圧
SHIATSU
Japanese Massage
SHUNJI MORIMOTO
(978) 544-2375



Jeffrey Bauman
Attorney At Law
P.O. Box 1003
Wendell, MA 01379-1003 978-544-7696

Highway Department
Daniel Bacigalupo, Superintendant 544-2336

Historical Commission

Emma Cappelluzzo	544-3583
Jerry Eide	544-7864
Jean Forward	544-7502

I

Inspector of Animals and Stables
Maggie Houghton 544-7773

Inspector of Buildings
Phil Delorey 544-2236
(Fridays 6:30-8:30pm 544-3395)

Inspector of Wiring
Franklin County Cooperative
1-413-774-5623

Inspector of Plumbing
Herb Hoengasser 1-413-774-7350

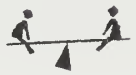
J

Justice of the Peace
Michael Bloomfield 1-413-367-9252
Jonothan von Ranson 544-3758

State Police--Athol 249-4341
Edward Chase, Chief 544-3554
Station 544-7448

Officers
Cain Blackbird
Theles J. Blackbird
Anne Diemand
Tom Hebert
Christopher Maselli
Charles Ricko

Positive Action Committee
Anna Hartjens 544-6052
Judith Wilder 544-2773



R

Recreation Committee
(meets 4th Thurs.
7 PM Senior Center)

Kristen Bernard	
Mez Ziemba	544-7561
Anne Diemand	544-6111
Robert Heller	544-6933
Ina LeVangie	544-3414

Registrars, Board of

Judy Anderson	544-7613
Edna Bulger	
Anna Hartjens, Clerk	544-6052
Belinda Parson	544-2066

Road Commission
(meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 6:30pm, Town Garage)

Mike Anderson	544-7613
David Arsenault	544-9944
David Wilder	544-2773
Harry Williston	544-6951

We've Been in the Kitchen
at the
Diemand Farm
Come visit our newly remodeled store
featuring homemade products:
Turkey Pot Pies * Quiche * Sliced Turkey and Gravy
Frozen/Microwaveable Turkey Dinners * Ground Turkey * Squash
Stuffing * Cranberry Sauce * Pesto
Eggs and lots more !
We've been cooking up something good for you!
Open 7am -5pm* 7 days a week * Wendell MA * 978-544-3806

Town Treasurer
Carolyn Manley 544-7028

Tree Warden
Daniel Bacigalupo 544-2336

V

Veterans Agent
Leo Parent 1-413-863-3205

W

Wendell Country Store
(Monday-Saturday 7:30am-9pm, 544-8646
Sunday 9am-8pm)

Wendell Depot Store
(Monday-Friday 7-11am, 1-5pm 544-6682
Saturday 7-11am)

Wendell Old Home Days
Anne Diemand 544-6111

Wendell Post
Kathy Becker 544-2086
Anne Diemand 544-6111

Wendell Post Office
Wendell Center
Charles O'Dowd, Postmaster 544-7090
(Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30-1, 2:30-5
Saturday 8-12)
Wendell Depot
Anna Hartjens, Postmaster 544-6682
(Hours: Monday-Friday 7-11, 1-5
Saturday 7-11)

WRATS (Recycling & Transfer Station)
544-RATS or 544-7287
(Hours: Tuesday 12-6pm, Saturday 9am-5pm)
Daniel Bacigalupo 544-3735
Charles Smith 544-6933

Wendell State Forest
Supervisor 1-413-659-3797

Work Permit
Christine Heard 544-2282

Z

Zoning Board of Appeals

Myron Becker	544-2086
Steve Gross	544-2649
Ted Lewis (alternate)	544-3329
Paul Sullivan	544-7582

Battle

Cont from page 1

a request to the DEP that the DB Landfill be made a public involvement plan site.

As part of the terms of the settlement of the lawsuit over the illegal dumping of asbestos at the DB Landfill, Wendell received $15,000 to fund a Supplemental Environmental Project related to the closure of the DB Landfill. The project has to be approved by the DEP. A CACL representative is talking to possible technical experts to get an idea of what could be done. A CACL meeting will be held in the near future to come up with a proposal. Watch for posters.

A year ago a group of citizens representing Wendell town boards, CACL, and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments met with DEP officials at the DEP Regional office in Springfield. Part of the conversion concerned closure requirements. Prior to closure the operator is required to submit a Initial Site Assessment (ISA), a Comprehensive Site Assessment and a Corrective Action Design.

The BOH expressed the desire to have the assessment done according to the state's Landfill Technical Guide. At that meeting Mark Schleeweiss, Section Chief, DSWM, who is no longer in that department, said that he already knows the landfill so doesn't need an ISA. The DEP also stated the Corrective Action Design did not show a "sufficient level of effort."

I called the DEP in June asking if the Site Assessments were complete and a closure plan approved and was told that they were not.

November1999 - the landfill accepted its last load of debris. Since then traffic to the site has been carrying loads of "slightly contaminated soil" used for shaping and contouring for final closure. The DB Landfill final Operations Summary report for the period ending November 23, 1999, reports a cumulative volume of material received, including ASR (fill material used under beneficial use permit) was 499,217 cubic yards. This figure does not include the brick and "slightly contaminated soil" brought in since November. Yet this figure is 60% more than the 300,000 cubic yards permitted.

A January 24, 2000 field memo from Mark Haley reports that the landfill has a beneficial use permit to use asphalt, brick and concrete as fill material. Dean Bennett had requested permission to use approximately 200 trailer loads of brick from a Boston demolition job.

I am reminded of a favorite quote taken from Living Downstream by Sandra Steingraber. "From the right to know and the duty to inquire, flows the obligation to act."

The Wendell Free Library has a DB Landfill notebook that contains copies of pertinent documents.

Anyone wishing to put in some time on this project is urged to call me at 544-2741.

Nancy Riebschlaeger

Maxymillian Technologies
http://www.maximillian-tech.com/
Massachusetts DEP -
http://www.state.ma.us/dep
laws administered by dep
http://www.state.ma.us/dep/matrix.htm
Alan Weinberg, Acting Regional Director, DEP, 436 Dwight Street, Springfield, MA 01103
petitions and requests for public involvement contact DEP Regional Public Involvement Coordinator, Wester Regional Office, Springfield, 413-784-1100
ASR=automobile shredder residue
Slightly contaminated soil may contain Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, Mercury, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH), Total PCBs; the TPH limit for a lined landfill is 5,000 mg/kg.
dblandfill; landfill general links and info
http://www.valinet.com/~nanc/dbl.html

FHA mandates statewide road, bridge repair & requires local input in prioritizing spending

Franklin Regional Planning Board members learned details about the impact of Federal Highway Administration (FHA) intervention into MassHighway spending on the "the big dig" from Franklin Regional Council of Governments Executive Director Linda Dunlavy, at the June 29th meeting. The FHA required that before they would approve more funds for the Central Artery, a formula for financing the rest of the transportation infrastructure in Massachusetts be developed. The state legislature took corresponding action to mandate $400 million statewide spending.

The board received copies of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) created by a task force of state and regional officials to define, develop and monitor a balanced statewide road and bridge program. The task force included all regional planning agencies, Mass Highway personnel, Federal Highway personnel, and construction representatives. The MOA goes beyond federal funds to address the prioritization process for non-federal aid projects. For the first time MassHighway must work cooperatively with the regions to create prioritized lists of non-federal aid projects.

Marianne Sundell

The W.R.A.T.S. Wrap Up!

Here at W.R.A.T.S. there tends to be some areas of confusion as to what gets recycled and accepted at the facility. In hopes of clarifying any misconceptions, I wish to explain what the recycling and disposal processes are we all need to recognize.

At the "Recycling Barn" we not only offer the unique "Free Store", but extensive recycling services. Although the "Free Store" has been a great success, there are circumstances that have occurred which abuse this privilege. The "Free Store" is for items that **can be reused.** Many times boxes are dumped with items that are not reusable, but simply filled with trash. This is unacceptable and to avoid this from continuing, we ask that **ALL RESIDENTS CLEAR ALL ITEMS WITH THE STAFF!**

WHAT **IS** RECYCLABLE?

PAPER PRODUCTS: Flattened cardboard that is not soiled or waxed with tape removed. Newspaper of all grades, magazines, catalogs, paper packaging with all plastic windows removed, and paper bags.

CONTAINERS: Any food or beverage glass, plastic, metal-type, or aseptic (ie., orange juice, soy, and milk cartons) container. **ALL** containers must be rinsed, lids removed then put into recycling bin, and **all non-glass** containers must be crushed in order to save space.

PLASTIC BAGS: Plastic bags must be **clean** and they go into their own barrel for recycling.

SCRAP METALS: These items must be taken apart and separated properly into each scrap metal bin outside.

ELECTRONICS: W.R.A.T.S. will continue to accept electronics such as televisions, computers, stereos, etc., but there are fees associated with these items which help to cover W.R.A.T.S. processing costs. A complete list of items and fees is at W.R.A.T.S..

WHAT **IS NOT** RECYCLABLE?

NO

-PIZZA BOXES
-WRAPPING PAPER
-PLASTICS WHICH HAVE CONTAINED CONTAMINANTS (IE., MOTOR OIL, ANTI-FREEZE, PAINT THINNER)
-STYROFOAM
-CERAMICS
-BROKEN GLASS
-NON-FOOD AND NON-BEVERAGE GLASS

-BEER AND SODA PACKAGING
-HAZARDOUS WASTE OF ANY KIND (IE., FLOURESCENT BULBS, CHEMICALS, GASSES)

WHAT GOES INTO THE **COMPACTOR**?

The only items accepted as trash are light-weight, compressible, non-recyclable products. **No hazardous waste is to be thrown away!**

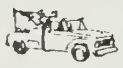
WHAT GOES INTO THE **OPEN TOP** ?

Only non-compressible, non-recyclable, **dismantled** items (ie., furniture).

For those that currently do not recycle, Massachusetts regulations require that you do. You are not only helping the environment by recycling, but you will avoid excessive fines. The W.R.A.T.S. staff wants to help all residents understand the benefits of recycling. As recyclables end up in the compactor, the more expensive it is going to be to have our trash hauled away. Save yourself some money and recycle! I urge all of you to participate and to ask for assistance when you need it. **We** are here to **help you!**

Susan Russo
Recycling Barn Manager
Hours of operation:
Tuesday 12:00pm-6:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm

544-7601



HILLTOP AUTO
REPAIRS AND WRECKING
HC 82 Wickett Pond Rd.
Wendell, Mass. 01379

24 Hour Towing Service
General Service - To High Performance Big Blocks

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Japanese Massage
SHUNJI MORIMOTO
(978) 544-2375

Bach Flower Essence
and Reiki II Practitioner

Dorothy Clare Green
544-7421

Joseph Drozdowski

Joseph Drozdowski, 83, of 5 Davis Road died Monday (6/5/00) at the Franklin MedicalCenter in Greenfield.
Born in Wendell, December 24, 1916, he was the son of Peter and Caroline (Kozik0) Drozdowski. He attended Wendell schools. He was a lifelong resident of the town.
Drozdowski was employed by the former Donald Ellis Sawmill in Wendell for 11 years, retiring in 1979. Previously, he was employed by the town for 15 years. He served in the Army during World War II. He enjoyed hunting rabbits.
Survivors include a brother, Adam of Wendell: a sister, Louise Kniskern of Bernardston: and several nieces and nephews.
He was buried at Our Lady of Czestowchowa Cemetary in Turners Falls.

Memories of Joe Drozdowski

Growing up with Joe as a neighbor was of great interest and fun for me. When I was young, I recall Joe would come up to the farm to visit with the folks. He seemed to always have interesting tales to tell and once upon my request, he even caught a racoon for me to have as a pet. Of course, this was not such a smart idea particularly after the racoon bit my brother, Albert. He was soon back in the wild where he belonged. I recalled visiting Joe in his little shack he called a home. I would love to talk with him and would admonish him about his trapping animals.

For me, Joe represented a time long past. A time when a person could do their own thing. And Joe seemed never to worry about what someone else thought about him. To Joe, farewell and good hunting.

Judy Diemand Bailey

Albert J. Diemand

Albert Joseph Diemand of Wendell died on May 2, 2000 at his home in Wendell, Ma. Al was born on October 26, 1908 in New Britain, Conn.
He attended New Britain schools and then worked as traffic manager at Keeney Manufacturing Co. in Newington, Conn until moving to Wendell in 1940. He was the son of the late Rose (Wohenz) and the late Albert Diemand.
He worked at the Greenfield Tap and Die, was a Fuller Brush Salesman until he started the Diemand Farm.
He leaves his wife of 59 years, Elsie G. Diemand of Wendell; twelve children: Joseph, Peter, Edward of Wendell; Albert of Houston, Texas; Anthony of Montague and Paul of Peterborough, N. H., Mary Howe, Faith, Anne of Wendell; Bertha Petruski of Montague; Elsie Blanchard of Northampton and Judy Bailey of Barrington, RI; one sister, Gertrude Cordick, East Hartford, Conn., 25 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren.
Albert was a member of St. John's Church, a daily communicant and had been a Eucharist minister for many years. He was a past member of the Moose Club. He was a 4th degree Bishop Garrigan Knights of Columbus member. He was a member of the Swift River School Building Comm., a member of the Franklin County Technical School Comm., Past Civil Defense Director for the Town of Wendell, on the Board of Directors for Camp Howe (President for many years) and a member of the Golden Age Club of Wendell. He was also a member of the Democratic Comm. He is the holder of the Boston Post Golden Cane (oldest resident in Wendell) and was awarded Citizen of the Year by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce in 1996.
He enjoyed playing golf and cards, reading, music, dancing and helping out on the farm. He held countless fundraising chicken b-b-q's for Passionist Monastery in West Springfield, Camp Howe and many different churches in the area. He was responsible for the building of the ECHO facility for the handicapped persons at Camp Howe.
A celebration of his life was held at St. Mary's Church in Turners Falls with burial at The Diemand Family Cemetery in Wendell
In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Hospice of Franklin County or Camp Howe Campership Fund c/o Carrie Sears, Greenfield Co-operative Bank, 63 Federal Street, Greenfield, Ma 01301

HONOR ROLL

Note: ** denotes High Honors, all A's.

- Ralph C Mahar Regional School Honor Roll Report

Grade 7 Honor Roll
Becchetti, Christie A.
Walsh, Sara L.
Grade 7 High Honors
Barilla, Vincent J.
Morimoto, Miya L.
Grade 8 Honor Roll
Ewell, Keri L.
Grade 9 Honor Roll
Barilla, Ariel E.
Bixby, Elizabeth A.
Boland, Travis E.
Feltman, Lindsay D.
Manley, Kimberly E.
Grade 9 High Honors
Cocco, Jamie C.
Mangan, Susan A.
Morimoto, Yuya J.
Walsh, Dawn M.
Grade 10 Honor Roll
Flynn, Darcy R.
Murcell Ciji A.
Simon, Kelly J.
Walsh, Brendan P.
Grade 10 High Honors
White-Diemand, Tessa R.
Grade 11 Honor Roll
Walsh, Liam P.
Grade 11 High Honors
Lowell, Michelle L.
Grade 12 Honor Roll
Feltman, Adam G.
Flynn, Kelsey K.
Grade 12 High Honors
Davis, Jesse E.
Gross, Mara J.
Tanner, Leah D.

PRESS Wendell Post Reporter

WENDELL P D and O.H.D.

The Wendell Police Dept. will be giving away four new bicycles again this year. Two bikes for teens and two for younger children. A free drawing will be held at Old Home Day – please stop by for a chat and to fill out a ticket. We will also be fitting and giving away bike helmets again this year.
We are also sponsoring a dunking booth, which we all intend on sitting in on. We would like to extend the invitation to any and all town officials who would like to sit in the seat of honor and cool off! If there are any special request of people you would like to dunk, feel free to call and let me know and I will extend the invitation to them.
We hope that everyone enjoys the day and keeps it safe. See you there!
Annie Diemand

Mark your calendars for
"The Festival that Stinks!"
The 2nd Annual North Quabbin
Garlic and Arts Festival
Saturday September 23rd, 2000
(Raindate Sunday the 24th)
10 AM - 5 PM
Forsters Farm
60 Chestnut Hill Rd., Orange MA
On-site parking! Admission by donation
978-544-7564 • solidar@shaysnet.com

Arsenault
Towing & Recovery Service
107 Wendell Depot Road
Wendell Depot, MA 01380
978-544-9955

ATM machine
WENDELL COUNTRY STORE
Patti & Vic Scutari
544-8646
Locks Village Rd.
Wendell, MA. 01379

Keller Beef
Wendell Homegrown
nearly organic
978-544-2857

Posting Place

Summer Reading Program at the New Salem and Wendell Libraries

CAMPFIRE ON THE WENDELL COMMON
with *Lester Scafidi*
Wednesday, August 23rd, 8:00-9:30 p.m.
Orange children's librarian and all around fun, frolicking performer, Lester Scafidi, will lead the sing along and fun at this year's campfire.
Contact Rosie Heidkamp, Wendell Librarian, 978-544-3559 (library) or 544-8457 (home).

New Flags and Poles for the Town Common Area

Ted Lewis is hoping to get 25 people to donate $20 each. This will allow him to purchase new flags and poles to be used for Memorial Day and other events. All donators' names will be thanked in the next Wendell Post. Please send your $20 to Ted at 166 West Street, Wendell 01379 Thank You

THE FREE BOX

The Free Box has undergone another change! Thanks to a cash donation from the ***Golden Agers*** and the team effort of many, there is new plywood, a sturdy base, and a fresh coat of paint on the skeleton of the old box.

The philosophy remains the same, however: **RECYLING.** Recylcing clothes that are no longer worn but could be of use, or perhaps a treasure to someone else. Wrong size, wrong color for you, outgrown childrens' clothes, might just fit or be just right for someone else. If we had a show of free box fashions, do you have something in your wardrobe from there, Wendell's unique boutique?

The ***free box*** idea originated with a man named Raphael who put boxes in Cambridge and later one in Wendell, at the Country Store. When Ann Zak sold the store, the new owner didn't want to continue the tradition of the free box and in fact, used the box itself for storage. After a year without free clothes in town, a group of Wendellites met to plan and later to build a new box which was placed in front of The Meeting House. This box was immortalized on the cover of The Boston Globe Sunday Magazine. This same box was later moved to its present location in front of the town offices.

There is a group of us who sort and remove surplus from the box, each taking one week per month. We **welcome** help and new members in this community project. We stand as testimony to how much use the box gets, every week, year round. We ask that you:

(1) Put only clothes in. Shoes, toys, books, purses, etc., go to WRATS.
(2) Don't leave anything outside the box.
(3) Think just a bit. Those of us who clean out the box have our stories - treasures, yes, but old, torn, mildewed, dirty, clothes should not be put into the box.
(4) Enjoy this valuable community resource.

It is part of what makes Wendell unique.

Hope Riley
544-7017

Wendell Harvest Festival

There will be a Wendell Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 30, on the town common from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.. Activities will include music, tag sales, and displays of local produce. Food vendors and other booths are welcome. Volunteers are needed to help with set up, take down, produce judging, and a prize committee. For more information, call Wanita Sears, 544-7198, or Linda Hickman, 544-8604.

SELECTBOARD IS LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER TO ACT AS FIELD DRIVER/ FENCE VIEWER.

SEPTIC TANK NEED PUMPING?

The present high groundwater conditions have made septic system problems more apparent for some townspeople.

Please make sure your septic tank pumping is up-to-date. Tanks should be pumped every 2-3 years, depending on size and usage.

Neglecting to pump may cause damage to your system, which, of course, is much more expensive to repair or replace than to maintain. If solids overflow into the leachfield, this can permanently plug the leachfield.

Please help protect our beautiful environment and your precious water supply by maintaining a regular pump schedule.

Board of Health questions? Please call me at 544-0922.

Gloria Kegeles
Board of Health

WELCOME ZACHARY & ROSE CHOINERE
After spending their first 93 days in the hospital, they are home and doing GREAT.

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Donation Made in Memory of Christine R. Ricketts

Sometimes important things fall through the cracks. Acknowledgment of Byron Ricketts' very quiet but steadfast support of the Wendell Library is one of them.

Over the years Byron has volunteered to paint the library, donated an entire , brand new, Nancy Drew mystery series, made professional looking signs to help users locate library materials and has given magazine subscriptions. He is even the guy who hung the 1894 Wendell Cornet Band drum so nicely above the library fireplace. The drum is a real focal point for many the first time they visit the library. It lends a sense of history and intrigue.

Most recently Byron has donated ,The Complete National Geographic; 108 Years of National Geographic Magazine on CD-ROM , in loving memory of his daughter, Christine R. Ricketts. The CD-ROMs sit next to the computer available for all to use. Byron plans to keep adding new CD-ROMs to the set as they are issued.

Thank-you Byron for your many and varied contributions to the Wendell Free Library.

Rosie Heidkamp, librarian

Road Update

It's hard not to notice all the improvements to our roads. According to our Road Boss, Danny Bacigalupo, the following projects have been completed or will be completed by September. Paving on Montague Rd., West Street, Locke Hill Road, and New Salem Road by the transfer station. Also, Culverts will be replaced on Wendell Depot Road and at Locke Village Bridge.

Stephen Broll

Jerry Eide
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